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never made an injection of less than 40 c. c., and yet have never caused any accident or any malaise. It might be useful to note that 1 of these patients was only 11 years old.

The disease seemed to have been caused by sacks of sugar coming from Alexandria. It did not seem to be contagious. In fact it has not by any means been proved to my satisfaction that the 4 cases, appearing as they did on July 5, 8, 10, and 12, received their contamination from each other. To admit this hypothesis would be to admit, first, a period of incubation exceptionally short, and second, a remarkable power of communicating the infection.

But everything in the history of our patients allows us to exclude this contagious power. Before taking to their beds they were in constant and intimate contact with a great number of workmen; later, when in bed, the father of one of the patients remained by the cot of his son day and night, sleeping and eating in the room where were also the beds of the other 3 plague patients. He nursed his son constantly, and frequently gave him services to the other sufferers, yet neither this father, nor the physician on special duty with these cases, nor the many physicians that came many times to study the cases had the slightest illness. It is then probable that the patients were all infected from the same source, and that none of them gave the disease to any one else.

What is true for Beirut is also true for Smyrna and for Alexandria where the malady, according to the expressions of the commission appointed to study it "was carried rapidly to several points without using man as the vehicle." Besides, it is a fact that a contagious disease will strike only 5 people in a city of 125,000 inhabitants as Beirut, or attack only 22 persons scattered here and there in a large city like Smyrna, especially when in these two cities the first cases were ignored, and on that account the ordinary measures of isolation and disinfection were not taken from the beginning. Is it a fact that a contagious disease will limit itself to a few isolated cases as at Alexandria without spreading to neighboring or other localities with which the contaminated city has direct and constant railroad communication during the entire duration of the epidemic?

If I insist upon the weak contagious power of the bubonic plague that I have observed, it is because I have seen the disastrous effects of an indescribable fright which nothing justified, fright born of the idea that plague is a disease horribly contagious. Again, it seems necessary to separate distinctly from the standpoint of its transmissibility, plague exclusively bubonic, from plague of the pneumonic form. The first sometimes very mild clinically is also often very slightly contractable; the second, on the contrary, nearly always very grave, is extremely contagious on account of the presence of large quantities of the bacilli of Yersin, in the sputum. If this distinction had been made, it would have avoided for the population of Beirut and Liban many measures that being useless and vexatious, caused them incalculable prejudice.

GERMANY.

Reports from Berlin as to plague in Cape Town, Africa.

[Clipping from the Berliner Tageblatt, February 26. Sent by P. A. Surg. J. B. Greene.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *February 27, 1901.*

Cape Town, February 25.—Up to this date there have been 31 persons here sick with the plague, among them 1 European. There are 24 cases under medical treatment. Several among them are very severe, and are likely to have a fatal termination. One of the dangerously ill patients is an European. Two new cases were reported to-day in the city. Twenty-five Europeans, 32 colored men, 93 Kaffirs, and 9 Indians who had been in contact with the patients are under medical observation at the isolated station.

Plague in Cape Colony.

[Clipping from the Berliner Tageblatt, February 28, 1901.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *February 28, 1901.*

Cape Colony, February 27.—Yesterday 7 new cases of plague were reported; among them was an European woman in the lower part of the town. Another case was that of an European in the better part of the city. A Kaffir has died of the plague in a house near the cathedral.

A number of white and colored people who had come in contact with plague patients recently have been isolated. In view of the spread of the plague, the Government has increased the sanitary precautions. To-day 6 new cases of plague have occurred. Two natives were found dead, and it is believed they died of plague.

ITALY.

Reports from Naples—Smallpox continues.

NAPLES, ITALY, February 20, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended February 20, 1901, the following ships were inspected:

On February 14, the steamship *Columbia*, of the Hamburg-American Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 749 steerage passengers and 65 pieces of large and 102 pieces of small baggage. One hundred and thirty-five pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On February 16 the steamship *Liguria*, of the Italian General Navigation Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 1,077 steerage passengers and 190 pieces of large and 1,110 pieces of small baggage. Two hundred and sixty-eight pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam. One case of variola was rejected.

On February 20 the steamship *Hesperia*, of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 716 steerage passengers and 41 pieces of large and 901 pieces of small baggage. One hundred and sixty-seven pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Smallpox.

At the inspection of the steamship *Liguria* one of the steerage passengers was found to have had smallpox. Desquamation was about completed. The family in which the case occurred was detained here to await developments.

During the past week smallpox has again appeared in many of the villages adjacent to Naples in which it was supposed to have been stamped out. Orders more strict than those previously issued have been sent out in regard to vaccinating the people in the affected districts. The real number of cases is mere conjecture. Many physicians do not report their cases and many others occur without receiving medical attention. Therefore, the number of cases does not reach the statistician.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NAPLES, ITALY, February 27, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended February 27, 1901, the following ships were inspected:

On February 21, the Italian steamship *Neptunus*, bound with cargo via Messina, for Boston and Philadelphia.

On February 21, the steamship *Hohenzollern*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 752 steerage passengers and